

**From:** Samuel Herschbein  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 6:49pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I recognize the importance of a strong economy for the strength of our nation. I also recognize that our Constitution and laws protect us from being taken over (politically and economically) by groups with their own agendas.

As a computer professional since 1980 and a Macintosh user since 1986, I have watched Microsoft use its corporate strength to ensure its success without due regard to the law. Your case addressed some of these issues, many other actions have not been brought to justice.

Part of the proposed settlement is for Microsoft to donate equipment and software to schools. Apple Computer has dominated in this market, in spite of Microsoft's best efforts to compete. The proposed settlement will allow Microsoft to take over this market, contradicting the verdict and the principle of competition.

Please do what is just and legal. This trial has many parallels to the "robber barons" of the last century. They postured themselves as victims of an interfering government, Microsoft has done the same. They even had the audacity to question the DOJ and try to turn public opinion against you and the government on their web pages. Personally, I see that as a version of "jury tampering."

One thing must be remembered: the law has been broken, a verdict has been made, and the punishment should fit the crime.

In light of the Enron failure, I believe that many people will be looking to the government to control this unmitigated greed that thinks it is OK to break our country's laws to get what they want.

Thank you,  
Sam

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